

Esoteric Buddhism in East Asia

Buddhism in East Asia Buddhism in South-East Asia Esoteric Buddhism and the Tantras in East Asia Tantric Buddhism in East Asia The Debate and Confluence between Confucianism and Buddhism in East Asia The Rise & Fall of Southeast Asia's Empires Buddhism in East Asia History of Theravada Buddhism in South-East Asia East Asian Buddhism Korean Buddhism in East Asian Perspectives Theravada Buddhism in Southeast Asia Buddhism Esoteric Pure Land Buddhism Buddhism and Buddhist Literature of South-East Asia The Phoenix a Monthly Magazine for China, Japan & Eastern Asia Buddhism Buddhism Across Asia India and Southeast Asia Avatamsaka Buddhism in East Asia Japan Sukumar Dutt D. C. Ahir Charles Orzech Richard K. Payne Chun-chieh Huang don lehman jr. Damodar P. Singhal Kanai Lal Hazra John McRae Robert C. Lester Davids Aaron P. Proffitt Peter Skilling Thomas William Rhys Davids Tansen Sen Robert M. Gimello Johannes Justus Rein

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this is a comprehensive survey of the buddhist influence on asian culture and civilization

this volume the result of an international collaboration of forty scholars provides a comprehensive resource on esoteric buddhism and the tantras in their chinese korean and japanese contexts from the first few centuries of the common era to the present

although indian and tibetan versions of tantric buddhism are increasingly recognized the east asian variations on this practice remain largely overlooked the only book to present the entire breadth of tantric buddhism in east asia this collection remedies that situation with 12 key essays drawn from rare sources organized into four sections china and korea japan deities and practices and influences on japanese religion the book brings together a critical mass of scholarship with the potential to create a sea change in the understanding of this subject

after the arrival of buddhism toward the end of the eastern han dynasty 25 220 buddhism found itself in a fierce conflict with indigenous chinese thought the controversies between confucianism and buddhism reached their peak in the time of the northern and southern dynasties 420 589 by

then these two ideologies had gone through a long period of mutual conflict when buddhism spread east from china and entered korea and japan a wide array of intense debates was aroused in 14th and 15th century korea and in 17th century japan that resulted in an ultimate confluence between confucianism and buddhism this volume tells the story of the debate between buddhism and confucianism in east asia and explains the reason why the confluence between these two systems of thought is possible

the author treats southeast asia as a unified and distinct cultural entity the narrative begins with her tectonic development and ends with the arrival of the europeans circa 1500 ce

in the first or second century ce chinese officials began to hear rumours of a powerful new deity somewhere in the far off western region golden hued able to fly through the air and of superhuman size he was the source of unspeakable power the chinese emperor sent out an exploratory expedition images of the buddha began to appear at court and thus began the gradual spread of buddhism through east asia from india to china korea vietnam and japan this book presents an up to date introduction to buddhism in east asia taking a timely regional focus and covering history geography and culture doctrine and texts practice and tradition written by a leading scholar it surveys the field by means of vivid and accessible explanations made readily understandable by features such as boxed summaries charts and timelines a glossary further reading lists and illustrations the regional focus and the stress on practice and material culture is in tune with contemporary research in the field and brings the east asian buddhist world enjoyably to life

what if anything is esoteric pure land buddhism in 1224 the medieval japanese scholar monk dhan 1179 1252 composed the compendium on esoteric mindfulness of buddha himitsu nenbutsu sh which begins with another seemingly simple question why is it that practitioners of mantra and meditation rely on the recitation of the name of the buddha amit bha to answer this question dhan explored diverse areas of study spanning the whole of the east asian mahayana buddhist tradition although contemporary scholars often study esoteric buddhism and pure land buddhism as if they were mutually exclusive and diametrically opposed schools of buddhism in the present volume aaron proffitt examines dhan s compendium in the context of the eastward flow of mahayana buddhism from india to japan and uncovers mahayana buddhists employing multiple overlapping so called esoteric approaches along the path to awakening proffitt divides his study into two parts in part i he considers how early buddhologists working under colonialism first constructed mahayana buddhism pure land buddhism and esoteric buddhism as discrete fields of inquiry he then surveys the flow of indian buddhist spells dh ra and mantra texts into china and japan and the diverse range of buddhist masters who employed these esoteric techniques to achieve rebirth in sukh vat the pure land of bliss in part ii he considers the life of dhan and analyzes the monk s comprehensive view of buddh nism ti as a form of ritual technology that unified body and mind sukh vat as a this worldly or other worldly soteriological goal synonymous with nirvana itself and the buddha amit bha as an object of devotion beyond this world of suffering the work concludes with the first full translation of dhan s himitsu nenbutsu sh into a modern language

the twelve essays in this volume survey aspects of buddhism and buddhist literature in pre modern south east asia and thailand drawing on pali and vernacular texts liturgy and inscriptions they discuss theravadin conceptions of the bodhisatta relations between sanskrit and vernacular literature in thailand and questions of the transmission and dissemination of buddhist ideas and narratives through sermon and ceremony the texts studied are both products and agents in the intellectual and social world of south east asian buddhism broader questions include the advent of theravada buddhism to south east asia and the role of south east asia in buddhist studies

the buddhism across asia is a must read for anyone interested in the history and spread of buddhism in asia it comprises a rich collection of articles written by leading experts in their fields together the contributions provide an in depth analysis of buddhist history and transmission in asia over a period of more than 2000 years aspects examined include material culture politics economy languages and texts religious institutions practices and rituals conceptualisations and philosophy while the geographic scope of the studies extends from india to southeast asia and east asia readers knowledge of buddhism is constantly challenged by the studies presented incorporating new materials and interpretations rejecting the concept of a reified monolithic and timeless buddhism this publication reflects the entangled dynamic and multi dimensional history of buddhism in asia over extended periods of integration development of multiple centres and european expansion which shaped the religion s regional and trans regional identities e max deeg cardiff university

the volume about avatamsaka buddhism in east asia is the result of a symposium organized in france in 2008 15 contributions reflect the ways of manifestation and of expression of huayan doctrines in several geographical regions and at different periods compared with previous valuable studies the present volume intends to open broader perspectives to give the opportunity to develop opened problematics based on primary sources textual and iconological the avatamsaka doctrines have developed particular ways of expression and paradigms on the chinese soil as a sinized buddhism they may be said to have achieved a philosophical revolution in the history of mahayana the absolute is not the goal of the philosophical and soteriological inquiry but its point of departure the world is not only an illusion to be transcended but a manifestation of this very absolute the avatamsaka can be seen as the backbone of influential currents the chan or zen the tiantai or tendai the ritualistic buddhism the pure land teachings as well as the song studies the renewal of problematics on history of religion in the far east region as the so called combined scheme simultaneously philosophical exoteric and ritualist esoteric gives a meaning to the approach of avatamsaka current as common denominator linked from china till the qitan region to korea and japan

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